

SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

BASKET CREEK SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT  
 DOUGLASVILLE, DOUGLAS COUNTY, GEORGIA

September, 1991

INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to conduct a Superfund removal action at the Basket Creek Surface Impoundment site. This Fact Sheet provides information about the site, the cleanup process, and the Superfund program.

The Administrative Record, which contains various documents prepared for and related to the site, has been made available for public review and copying at an information repository. The repository is located at the following address:

Superior Court of Douglas County  
 6754 Broad Street  
 Douglasville, Georgia 30134  
 (Att. Ms. Jane C. Williams)

Or at:

USEPA - Region IV  
 345 Courtland Street, NE  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30365  
 Ms. Debbie Jourdan

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION

Date: Monday, September 9, 1991  
 Time: 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.  
 Place: Basket Creek Disposal Site  
 7840 Basket Creek Road  
 (In the event of inclement weather-  
 Douglas County Fire Station)  
 on Georgia 166 west of Georgia 5

Interested citizens are encouraged to stop by to talk with EPA officials about the site.

SITE BACKGROUND

The former landowner of the property at 7768 Basket Creek Road operated an unpermitted waste disposal pond during the late 1960s. Liquid waste from unknown sources was transported to the site and discharged into a man-made impoundment. This material was allowed



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to evaporate and/or percolate into the soil. In 1970 the impoundment caught fire and it was covered with clear soil. The EPA has sampled the subsurface soil in the former impoundment area and found high concentrations of volatile organic compounds and heavy metals. The area of contamination is roughly bowl shaped, with a diameter of approximately 35 feet and a maximum depth of seven feet. An intensive EPA investigation has not located any potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at this site, so the cleanup will be conducted by EPA with costs to be borne by the Hazardous Substances Superfund. Citizens are encouraged to contact EPA if they know the identity of any parties involved in hazardous waste disposal at this site.

### CLEANUP PROCESS

An EPA contractor, OHM Remediation Services, will be conducting the removal action under EPA direction. At this time EPA is continuing to evaluate alternatives for cleaning up the site. The presence of organic and inorganic (heavy metals) waste at the same site is unusual and will drive up the cost of the cleanup. Based on preliminary cost estimates, off-site incineration would cost \$1.5 million. EPA is evaluating other alternatives which would be more cost effective while being just as protective of the environment and the health and safety of local residents.

~~The most important threat to the health and safety of local residents during this cleanup will be exposure to volatile organic vapors during the excavation of the waste. EPA is investigating several possible ways to minimize this risk, including erecting a temporary air-tight structure over the site. If an on-site treatment system is used to treat the soil, it will be a closed system with no toxic emissions to the atmosphere. Following removal of the contaminated soil, the excavation will be backfilled and seeded.~~ An update of this Fact Sheet will be published when a final decision on the treatment technology is made.

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### THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM

CERCLA, commonly known as the Superfund Law, passed in 1980 and amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in 1986, is unique because it enables EPA to respond directly to clean up or to force potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to clean up uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

This process is divided into two major area, removal actions and remedial actions. Remedial actions are conducted at sites which rank on the National Priorities List (NPL). Removals can be conducted on NPL sites, but they can also be conducted on sites that do not rank on the NPL. The Basket Creek Surface Impoundment site did not rank on the NPL. However, EPA deemed a removal necessary to protect the public health or welfare or the environment. Because of time and funding limitations established by the Superfund law, removal actions are generally restricted to addressing the source of contamination (buried drums, contaminated soil, etc.). Groundwater cleanup is beyond the scope of removal actions.